

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJ: TURK CYPRIOT LEADER HINTS AT UDI

REF: ANKARA 6799

1. SUMMARY: ACTING TFSC PRESIDENT UNEL THREATENS THAT CONTINUING GREEK PROPAGANDA AND INABILITY OF TURK CYPRIOTS TO MAKE THEIR CASE KNOWN IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS PUSHING COMMUNITY TOWARD UDI. UNEL EXPRESSES PESSIMISM ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SETTLEMENT AND SAYS TURKS COULD NOT GIVE UP MORE THAN 3-4 PERCENT OF TERRITORY UNDER THEIR CONTROL. MOVE IN DIRECTION OF UDI DOES NOT APPEAR IMMINENT AND THREAT BY UNEL MAY BE SCARE TACTIC DESIGNED TO WORRY USG INTO PUTTING PRESSURE ON GREEKS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT OF TURK CYPRIOT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND ACTING PRESIDENT "TFSC" NEJDET UNEL CALLED EMBOFF TO HIS OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 4 FOR WHAT UNEL TERMED "PRIVATE AND UNOFFICIAL" VISIT. UNEL WAS GREATLY AGITATED AND SAID
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TURK CYPRIOTS INCREASINGLY INCENSED WITH GREEK PROPAGANDA

ACTIVITIES, INABILITY OF TURK CYPRIOTS TO PRESENT THEIR CASE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS SUCH AS THE LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, AND EFFRONTERY OF EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S CURRENT INVESTIGATION IN NICOSIA OF GOC CHARGES OF TURKISH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON CYPRUS. WHERE, HE BITTERLY ASKED, WAS THE COMMISSION DURING THE LAST 12 YEARS WHEN THE TURKS WERE BEING OPPRESSED ON CYPRUS? HOW COULD THE COMMISSION MAKE ANY CLAIM TO IMPARTIALITY WHEN GREEK VIOLATIONS NOT BEING CONSIDERED AND WHEN TURKISH SIDE NOT EVEN RECOGNIZED AS AN OFFICIAL PARTY TO THE DISPUTE. IN SHORT, TURKS COULD NOT TOLERATE SITUATION MUCH LONGER. THEY BEING PUSHED IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION AND WOULD BE FORCED TO TAKE "STEPS". THESE, HE STRESSED REPEATEDLY, WOULD BE POLITICAL AND NOT MILITARY IN NATURE.

3. EMBOFF IN RESPONSE TO THIS TRANSPARENT THREAT OF UDI EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT NEITHER SIDE WOULD TAKE ANY PRECIPITATE ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT UNDERMINE TALKS OR REDUCE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT WHICH WAS SO CLEARLY IN INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES. UNEL REJOINED THAT LEADERS COULD NOT PRETEND MUCH LONGER THAT SETTLEMENT WAS POSSIBLE. POSITIONS ARE SIMPLY TOO FAR APART. GREEKS ARE ASKING FOR UNREASONABLE AMOUNT OF TERRITORY AND ARE "EVEN DEMANDING THE RETURN OF VAROSHA.....MOST TURKS COULD GIVE WAS 3-4 PERCENT."

4. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, EMBOFF STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH SIDES TO SHOW MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AND THAT IT WOULD BE GREAT TRAGEDY IF THE MISTAKES OF THE 1960'S, WHEN A LITTLE MORE FLEXIBILITY MIGHT HAVE RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT, WERE REPEATED AND IF THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE TOWARD SOLUTION WERE LOST. TURKS NOW HAD OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE ALL THEIR BASIC OBJECTIVES IN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SETTLEMENT. GIVEN FACT THAT TURKS NOW HOLD FAR MORE LAND IN CYPRUS THAN THEY CAN USE PRODUCTIVELY, INABILITY TO DISPLAY THAT EXTRA MEASURE OF FLEXIBILITY WHICH MIGHT MAKE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SETTLEMENT AND NO SETTLEMENT WOULD BE ALL THE MORE TRAGIC.

5. ABANDONING PREVIOUS CIRCUMLOCUTIONS, UNEL THEN DECLARED
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THAT UDI WAS RAPIDLY BECOMING ONLY FEASIBLE COURSE FOR TFSC. "WE MAY NOT GET INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. BUT WE DO NOT HAVE IT NOW, SO WHAT DO WE HAVE TO LOSE?" EMBOFF REPLIED HE DID NOT SEE HOW UDI WOULD SOLVE ANY OF TURK CYPRIOTS' PROBLEMS. IN FACT, IT WOULD LIKELY CREATE NEW PROBLEMS, RESULT IN INTENSIFIED GREEK EFFORTS TO ISOLATE TURKS DIPLOMATICALLY, AND GIVEN TURKISH MILITARY, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL CONTROLS OVER TFSC, WOULD NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.UNEL, CALMER THAN AT THE OUTSET, SEEMED TO APPRECIATE THESE ARGUMENTS AND BACKED OFF EARLIER THREATENING POSTURE, SAYING THAT "OF COURSE, WE WOULD NOT BE TAKING SUCH A STEP TOMORROW OR THE NEXT WEEK."

6. COMMENT: UNEL SEEMS TO BE TAKING CUE FROM DENKTASH'S SEPTEMBER 3 STATEMENT IN ANKARA (REFTEL) ABOUT TFSC ANNOUNCING ITS INDEPENDENCE " ONE DAY." UDI THREAT MAY BE SCARE TACTIC DESIGNED TO WORRY USG INTO PUTTING PRESSURE ON GREEKS TO REFRAIN FROM FURTHER EFFORTS TO ISOLATE TURKS INTERNATIONALLY. WHILE MANY INFLUENTIAL TURK CYPRIOTS BELIEVE TURK CYPRIOT "INDEPENDENCE" IS THE ONLY ANSWER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION IS IMMINENT. ANKARA NOT LIKELY PERMIT SUCH A MOVE PRIOR TO CONGRESSIONAL VOTE ON ARMS EMBARGO. COLLAPSE OR STALEMATE OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND MAINTENANCE OF EMBARGO, HOWEVER, COULD CHANGE SITUATION AND INCREASE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH A MOVE.
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